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AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY IN YUGOSLAVIA

FALL SOWING PLAN -- Borba, No 262, 28 Oct 48

Conditions for fulfilling the fall sowing plan are better this year than last due to better weather and improved methods. By 17 October the fall sowing plan for Slovenia, where results were best, had been fulfilled 70 percent, as compared with 10 percent in Serbia and 3.3 percent in Bosnia and Hercegovina. In Croatia, Macedonia, and Montenegro results were well below those in Slovenia.

In the Vojvodina, results varied from 34 percent in the Sombor, 33.5 percent in the Stara Pazova, and 31.3 percent in Sencanski District to about one percent in the Novi Sad and Titbumar Districts. As conditions are about the same throughout the Vojvodina, the variation in the figures is the result of faulty organization and failure to make full use of privately-owned machinery in certain districts.

In Bosnia and Hercegovina, the 1948 plan calls for 5,000 hectares more than that of 1947. Even allowing for this, however, better results should have been attained. Only 53 percent of the corn has been harvested, and only 25 percent of the cornfield area has been cleared of stubble. As winter wheat is planted for the most part where corn has been growing, fall planting has been considerably delayed. The same situation exists in certain parts of the Vojvodina, especially at Srem.

Precleaned and properly processed seed is prepared in district seed enterprises and agricultural cooperatives and distributed to the farmers in exchange for marketable goods, at a rate of 100 kilograms of seed for 110 kilograms of goods, or for 100 kilograms of goods plus 50 dinars. However, Slovenia is the only one of the republics where such seed is distributed to the farmers on time. In some districts the seed is stored away in some warehouse and no one bothers to distribute it.

Rain has fallen all over the country, and the ground is ready for planting. However, instead of taking advantage of every good day and making up for time lost in dry weather, in Gracanica District the local People's Committee has set a special task, such as building cooperative houses, for each day. This naturally interferes with the planting program.

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Another factor is the shortage of harness in parts of Serbia and in Bosnia and Hercegovina, where there are not enough tractors.

The agricultural-machinery stations thus far have met their plan for the fall sowing by 37 percent. Despite a shortage of certain parts, better results could have been obtained.

SEED DISTRIBUTION IN A SERBIAN DISTRICT -- Borba, No 264, 31 Oct 48

In the Nis District, more land than last year has been planted in wheat and barley. This will not interfere with the planting of other crops, as new fields have been created by plowing up pastures.

Forty hectares will be farmed collectively in Belotince, 20 in Gabrovac, and 60 in Donja Trnava, where 30 hectares were so farmed last year.

Less than 50 percent of the high-grade seed allotted to the district, with which half the area should have been planted, has been distributed to the peasants. Over 40 carloads of unprocessed wheat, which was to have been exchanged for salable wheat, are still stored in warehouses. Some local People's Councils have not yet received seed, although 20 October was the final date. Fifteen thousand kilograms of cleaned and processed seed in the warehouse of the co-operative in Knez Selo, and about 2,000 kilograms in Prva Kutina, were held in storage and not released to the farmers because of red tape.

Over 75 percent of the fall sowing plan for the Nis District had been fulfilled by 23 October. However, many peasants have not been able to plant high-grade seed, although there was plenty in storage.

SEED DISTRIBUTION IN THE VOJVODINA -- Borba, No 264, 31 Oct 48

Due to negligence, poor organization, and ignorance of conditions, about 30 percent of the high-grade wheat seed in the Vojvodina has not been cleaned and distributed to the farmers. Although the planting in the Vojvodina was to have been finished by 25 October, planting was delayed by dry weather, so that there was plenty of time to process and distribute the seed. So far only 23 percent of the area called for in the plan has been planted.

SOWING IN MONTENEGRO DISAPPOINTING -- Politika, No 13073, 5 Nov 48

Fall planting began in the coastal districts of Montenegro in mid-September, and in the north in the beginning of October. However, results so far indicate that the sowing is not proceeding according to plan. In the entire republic, only 5 percent of the area prescribed in the plan had been planted by the beginning of November.

The local councils and individual villages or planting organizations failed to act promptly and to make the proper preparations for carrying out the plan. Failure to provide seed to the farmers on time, particularly in Kotor and Andrijevic Districts, was the most important factor in holding up the planting program.

NEW WHEAT DEVELOPED IN CROATIA -- Politika, No 13062, 23 Oct 48

The United Agricultural Selection Station in Osijek has developed promising new varieties of wheat and maize. "Sisulja," the new wheat cross, produces up to 30 percent more than ordinary wheat per jutro, and yields about 400 kilograms of chaff per jutro for feeding livestock.

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In the Baranja, where "bankut" wheat yielding 2,200 kilograms per hectare [sic] has generally been grown, one farmer raised a record crop of "sisulja" of 2,012 kilograms per jutro [sic]. This variety of wheat will be the only one grown in Slavonia, the Baranja, and some other parts of Yugoslavia next year.

RECLAMATION IN MACEDONIA -- Borba, No 265, 2 Nov 48

A program for draining the swamps of the Strumica Polje was begun last year. A canal 16 kilometers long has been built around Belasica to carry away water from the Monospitovo Blato and from the mountain torrents coming from Belasica, as well as to provide irrigation in the future. A new bed for the Strumica River to the village of Turnovo has been completely cut. Several bridges are being built over the new bed. Work is almost finished toward controlling the most dangerous torrents.

By the end of the year, about 1,700 hectares will be made available for plowing next year, when cotton, rice, and sesame will be planted.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION IN BOSNIA -- Oslobodjenje, No 630, 31 Oct 48

On 26 September, artificial insemination of sheep became available at the livestock station in Vranica, near Travnik, for the first time.

REFORESTATION -- Borba, No 261, 27 Oct 48

Under the Five-Year Plan, 100,000 hectares of land where trees have been cut down, burned, or diseased are to be reforested by 1951, and at least 150,000 hectares of neglected forests will be improved. By 1951, a reforestation rate of 20,000 hectares per year, or 222 percent of the 1939 figure, must be reached.

During recent campaigns in various districts, fulfillment of the plans has varied from 1 to 300 percent. In the spring campaign of 1948, plans were not prepared and no serious reforestation work was undertaken in the Daruvar, Gospic, Klanjec, Susak, and some other districts.

Sixty percent of the 1948 reforestation plan remains to be met during the fall campaign.

FOREST RAIL LINE -- Borba, No 263, 30 Oct 48

The new forest rail line between Krusica and the Vranjski Potok, which was put into operation recently, will permit the exploitation of forest districts which have scarcely been used at all due to lack of transportation facilities.

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